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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Urban District of Clevedon for the year 1952

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you a report for the year 1952 on the health and sanitary conditions of the urban district, including some statistics from the work of your Sanitary Inspector's department.

The estimated population remains more or less stationary and the Registrar General's statistics present a picture very similar to those of former years: the Death Rate is 12.4 as compared with 11.3 for the whole country, while the Birth Rate, after correction for age and sex distribution of the population, is 14.7 as compared with 15.3 for the country as a whole. Of the one hundred and twenty-six local births all but seventeen have been born in Maternity Homes, a fact which reflects to some extent on the housing situation and the absence of domestic help.

The general health of the people and the healthiness of the district are satisfactory. The average age at death is again high and it is interesting to see how some of the common causes of mortality seem to claim a similar quota year by year. There have been no deaths from notifiable disease and indeed, apart from a number of cases of Whooping Cough in the first half of the year, there has been no real epidemic. Diphtheria remains absent and it may indeed be an unknown disease to most of the younger parents. It is therefore all the more important that they should have their children protected against this disease by immunisation; and the recent outbreak of severe smallpox in the north, with its attendant mortality, emphasises the need for protection against that disease by vaccination.

There is, as in other comparable communities, a considerable and increasing proportion of elderly people with a diminishing number of younger ones who are ready and free to tend to the elderly who, without such help, have to be torn from their familiar surroundings and relegated to the hospital for "chronics". Housing authorities can help solve this problem by including in their building programmes suitable accommodation for such cases preferably with some form of communal domestic help.

The public water supply is ample and of good quality and it is hoped that steps will shortly be taken to ensure its safety while reducing the unpleasant effects of chlorination. Refuse disposal is at the moment satisfactorily dealt with.

All the departments of the local health services function satisfactorily; the Hospital deals with most of the ordinary cases, medical and surgical and is affiliated with the larger and specialist Hospitals in Bristol, while laboratory facilities are available at Bristol and Taunton. County clinics deal with Infant Welfare, Tuberculosis and the School services; the District Nurses' work in the people's homes is most praiseworthy and the St. John Ambulance Brigade is always ready on call.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the ready help of colleagues, of all members of your staff and of the Somerset and Bristol County Health Authorities.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

G. MACLEOD

15th June 1953
DS

Statistics

Area	... 3464 acres
Registrar General's estimate of population	... 9491
Number of inhabited houses and flats	... 4070
Rateable value at 31st March 1953	... £81,596
Product of a penny rate	... £328

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	61	60	121
Illegitimate	2	2	4

Birth Rate per 1000 of population = 14.7 (corrected)

Still Births One female (legitimate) only

Still Birth Rate per 1000 (Live & Still) Births = 7.9

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	81	95	176

Death Rate per 1000 of population = 12.4 (corrected)
Average age at death = 74 years

Deaths of infants under one year

One male (legitimate) only at fifteen days, from congenital abnormality.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births = 8

Comparability Factors

For Births 1.12
For Deaths 0.67

Some of the principal causes of death

Cancer and malignant disease	.. 29
Coronary Disease	.. 25
Vascular Disease of Nervous System	.. 23
Heart & other Circulatory Diseases	.. 49
Influenza	.. 3
Pneumonia, Bronchitis & Respiratory diseases (not tuberculosis)	.. 13

Public Health Staff

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

J. Topham, A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

Notifiable Diseases	Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	0	0
Whooping Cough	98	0	0
Measles	7	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Erysipelas	2	0	0

Tuberculosis:

Age Group	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-pulmonary
0 - 15	0	0	0
15 - 25	1	1	0
25 - 35	0	0	0
35 - 45	3	0	0
45 - 55	1	0	0
55 & over	2	0	0
Totals	7	1	0

Housing

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temporary e.g. huts
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	28	0	22	0	0	0	0
Private Enterprise	7	0	18	0	4	0	0
	35	0	40	0	4	0	0

Total number of houses, including those built during the year, owned by Local Authority - 322

Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year - 277

Number of post-war houses erected to 31/12/52
By local authority - 206
By private enterprise - 57

Programme for 1953
By local authority - 48
By private enterprise - 10

Grants made under Housing Act, 1949 - nil

Milk

Registered Distributors - 17
Registered Dairies - 28
Supplementary licences to outside distributors - 0

Ice Cream

Premises registered for:- Manufacture & retail - 6
Manufacture only - 0
Retail only - 35

Premises registered under Section 14 of Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - 9
Action under Section 15 - nil

There are no public or private slaughterhouses and no knackers' yards in the district.